

AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION/MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT				1. CONTRACT ID CODE		PAGE OF PAGES 1 17	
2. AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION NO. 0001		3. EFFECTIVE DATE 26-Apr-2001		4. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQ. NO. W81EWF-1051-7385		5. PROJECT NO.(If applicable)	
6. ISSUED BY VBURG CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTING VICKSBURG OFFICE 4155 CLAY STREET VICKSBURG MS 39180-3435		CODE DACW42		7. ADMINISTERED BY (If other than item 6) See Item 6		CODE	
8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTRACTOR (No., Street, County, State and Zip Code)				X		9A. AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION NO. DACW42-01-R-0008	
				X		9B. DATED (SEE ITEM 11) 12-Apr-2001	
						10A. MOD. OF CONTRACT/ORDER NO.	
						10B. DATED (SEE ITEM 13)	
CODE		FACILITY CODE					
11. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in Item 14. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is extended, <input type="checkbox"/> is not extended. Offer must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended by one of the following methods: (a) By completing Items 8 and 15, and returning <u>1</u> copies of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted; or (c) By separate letter or telegram which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers. FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER. If by virtue of this amendment you desire to change an offer already submitted, such change may be made by telegram or letter, provided each telegram or letter makes reference to the solicitation and this amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and date specified.							
12. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA (If required)							
13. THIS ITEM APPLIES ONLY TO MODIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTS/ORDERS. IT MODIFIES THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM 14.							
A.THIS CHANGE ORDER IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO: (Specify authority) THE CHANGES SET FORTH IN ITEM 14 ARE MADE IN THE CONTRACT ORDER NO. IN ITEM 10A.							
B.THE ABOVE NUMBERED CONTRACT/ORDER IS MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES (such as changes in paying office, appropriation date, etc.) SET FORTH IN ITEM 14, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF FAR 43.103(B).							
C.THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY OF:							
D.OTHER (Specify type of modification and authority)							
E. IMPORTANT: Contractor <input type="checkbox"/> is not, <input type="checkbox"/> is required to sign this document and return _____ copies to the issuing office.							
14. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION (Organized by UCF section headings, including solicitation/contract subject matter where feasible.) Clarifications and changes as attached. Changes to solicitation package are outlined on pages 2 through 11. Question and answer section for clarifications begins on page 12.							
Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document referenced in Item 9A or 10A, as heretofore changed, remains unchanged and in full force and effect.							
15A. NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER (Type or print)				16A. NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTING OFFICER (Type or print)			
15B. CONTRACTOR/OFFEROR		15C. DATE SIGNED		16B. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		16C. DATE SIGNED	
(Signature of person authorized to sign)				BY (Signature of Contracting Officer)		26-Apr-2001	

SECTION SF 30 BLOCK 14 CONTINUATION PAGE

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Changes in Solicitation/Contract/Order Form

The required response date/time has changed from 27-Apr-2001 16:45 to 03-May-2001
16:30

Changes in Section B

REVISED BID SCHEDULE

Submit pricing on a per day basis for three types of surveys (see below) and in accordance with information in Scope of Work.

Bidder must provide daily rates that will take into consideration these rates would also be effective for weekend and holiday work (daily standard dive day rates, standby/weather day rates and mobilization day rates will be paid at the same rate, regardless of weekend or holiday work).

Government's definition of Standard Dive Day is 12 hours for this acquisition (normal dive day number of hours for Government research team). Overtime rate for the entire team, including equipment, will be paid for hours greater than 12 on Standard Dive Days only. Overtime hours would not be paid on Standby/Weather or Mobilization days.

1) A stream survey that would not require divers, but would require individuals with the ability to collect mussels or other samples in shallow water in depth of less than 3 feet.

2-Man Non-Dive Crew for Shallow Stream Surveys

Rate	Base Year	Option Year 1	Option Year 2	Option Year 3	Option Year 4
Standard Dive Day Rate					
Overtime Hourly Rate					
Standby/Weather Day Rate					
Mobilization Day Rate					

3-Man Non-Dive Crew for Shallow Stream Surveys

Rate	Base Year	Option Year 1	Option Year 2	Option Year 3	Option Year 4
Standard Dive Day Rate					
Overtime Hourly Rate					
Standby/Weather Day Rate					
Mobilization Day Rate					

2) A small river survey in depth of 3-9 feet that would require lightweight dive gear and 4-5 divers.

4-Man Dive Crew for Small River Surveys

Rate	Base Year	Option Year 1	Option Year 2	Option Year 3	Option Year 4
Standard Dive Day Rate					
Overtime Hourly Rate					
Standby/Weather Day Rate					
Mobilization Day Rate					

5-Man Dive Crew for Small River Surveys

Rate	Base Year	Option Year 1	Option Year 2	Option Year 3	Option Year 4
Standard Dive Day Rate					
Overtime Hourly Rate					
Standby/Weather Day Rate					
Mobilization Day Rate					

3) A large river survey in depth of greater than 9 feet, appropriate dive gear, and 4, 5 or 6 divers.

4-Man Dive Crew for Large River Surveys

Rate	Base Year	Option Year 1	Option Year 2	Option Year 3	Option Year 4
Standard Dive Day Rate					
Overtime Hourly Rate					
Standby/Weather Day Rate					
Mobilization Day Rate					

5-Man Dive Crew for Large River Surveys

Rate	Base Year	Option Year 1	Option Year 2	Option Year 3	Option Year 4
Standard Dive Day Rate					
Overtime Hourly Rate					
Standby/Weather Day Rate					
Mobilization Day Rate					

6-Man Dive Crew for Large River Surveys

Rate	Base Year	Option Year 1	Option Year 2	Option Year 3	Option Year 4
Standard Dive Day Rate					
Overtime Hourly Rate					
Standby/Weather Day Rate					
Mobilization Day Rate					

CONTRACT MINIMUM/MAXIMUM QUANTITY AND CONTRACT VALUE

The minimum quantity and contract value for all orders issued against this contract shall not be less than the minimum quantity and contract value stated in the following table. The maximum quantity and contract value for all orders issued against this contract shall not exceed the maximum quantity and contract value stated in the following table.

MINIMUM QUANTITY	MINIMUM AMOUNT	MAXIMUM QUANTITY	MAXIMUM AMOUNT
	\$16,000.00		\$450,000.00

REVISED SCOPE OF WORK

Dive Crews for surveys for Mussels in Medium Sized to Large Rivers and Shallow Stream Survey Crews

Introduction

Personnel at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Vicksburg, MS have been studying freshwater (native) mussels in large and small rivers in North America since the early 1980s. All diving work is done using a 4-5 person dive crew equipped with surface supplied air and communications equipment. Crews for shallow stream surveys will be non-dive teams of 2-3 persons.

We have collected mussels at multiple sites in fairly small streams (Luxapalila Creek and the Big Sunflower River in Mississippi) as well as navigable waterways such as the lower Ohio River near Olmsted, Illinois. ERDC personnel supply all mussel sampling equipment, maps, a shore crew and support boat. We are looking for a dive crew (with boats, vehicles, and dive equipment) that can collect mussels for us in a variety of large and small rivers in the central United States.

Contract Information and Evaluation Data

This requirement is proposed to be filled with a firm-fixed-price Indefinite Deliver/Indefinite Quantity type contract with a base with four option years. Estimates indicate that 2-8 separate trips will be made each year. The price for each trip will be based on the type of survey and the number of days. This 5-year contract will be awarded based upon evaluation criteria stated in FAR Clause 52.212-2 and outlined below:

Technical Capability and Past Experience

A brief description of the type of work required is included as Attachment 1. Proposals must include information to demonstrate past experience in conducting these types of surveys, including references. A listing of previous work pertaining to sampling mussels in freshwater systems should be included with the proposal.

Ability to Dive in Accordance with USACE Regulations

Army regulations require that all divers follow specifications listed in Section 30 of EM 385-1-1 (3 September 1996), pages 545 - 560. Proposals must include a statement indicating an understanding of these regulations and be prepared to follow them for these surveys. Before each dive survey, the team must submit a dive plan in accordance with Paragraph 30.A.13 (pages 547-548) of the above referenced safety regulation. An example dive plan must be submitted with the proposal.

Availability of Dive Equipment, Including Boats, Trailers, and Vehicles - Proposals must include an equipment list and note whether items are owned by the crew or will be

rented or leased. In addition, the following safety equipment should be available: first aid kit, oxygen resuscitation system, Stokes litter or backboard, and dive flag.

Appropriateness of costs - The dive crew should submit firm-fixed pricing on a per day basis for three types of surveys in bid schedule.

Our objective is to award a contract to a company with dive crews that have the ability to conduct the type of surveys that we are required to do in large rivers. Once a contractual arrangement with an appropriate crew or crews is in place, ERDC will determine the type of survey that is required (i.e., large or small river survey, and number of personnel needed). Delivery order pricing will be based upon the size of the crew, and number of days in the field (to include travel time).

Basis of Pricing

Daily rate proposed for each team must include preparation of the dive plan, as well as all costs for equipment, such as generators, compressors, expendable supplies, maintenance, fuel appropriate anchors, marine radios, batteries, etc.. Surface supplied air and communications equipment are required. The crew must be prepared to work on weekends, holidays, and during inclement weather (except if there are extreme winds, high waves, and lightning). Most work is done in rivers with little or no visibility, at water depths 5-40 ft, in currents approximately 1.5 ft/sec, and at distances 50 to 400 ft from shore. Boats must be taken by trailer to the river, and are often launched at substandard boat ramps. Ramps can be 50-75 miles from the nearest town, and boat ramps can be 10 to 25 miles from the dive sites. The Government's definition of Standard Dive Day is 12 hours for this acquisition, which is the normal dive day number of hours for Government research team. Depending on location, the dive sites could be 500 to 1000 miles from home base (contractor's closest location to dive site in each delivery order requirement).

Do not include ANY pricing associated with travel. Travel will be reimbursed on an actual-cost basis in accordance with Joint Federal Travel Regulations. Travel costs will not be a part of the evaluation process for contract award. A line item will be added to the base year with an estimated amount for travel.

After award, successful contractor will be provided Scope of Work for specific project requirement. Proposals will be prepared for each project with estimates for travel. Negotiated delivery orders will be issued for a given number of days (rates dependent upon requirement of each project) and "Not to Exceed" travel amount.

ATTACHMENT 1

METHODS FOR CONDUCTING DIVING SURVEYS

Background

Our research requires three types of sampling. First, a preliminary reconnaissance is conducted at the bed to obtain information on substratum type, current velocity, and presence of mussels. Next, quantitative total substratum samples are obtained by two divers working simultaneously. Finally, two divers collect mussels by searching for live specimens encountered by touch. The following is a brief discussion of procedures and equipment used for each task:

Preliminary Reconnaissance

The reconnaissance dive is made at the center and usually the densest part of the bed. A single diver spends 10 to 30 min on the bottom and relays information to the tender on current velocity, bottom type, and the presence of dead shells and live mussels. Estimates of the number of live mussels per square meter are made. After information close to the boat is gathered, the diver investigates areas closer to the shore and the river channel. The diver also moves upriver and downriver at least 20 to 30 m.

After information on the first site has been gathered, the dive boats should be moved to a new location and the reconnaissance repeated. Before detailed work begins, we usually investigate three to five sites along the bed. The diver will stay on the bottom for only a few minutes if conditions are similar to the last site that was investigated. Sites are marked with buoys or flagging fixed to prominent objects on shore. The location of permanent sites is recorded with a Loran or Global Positioning System.

Quantitative Sampling

Quantitative samples must be obtained with a 0.25 sq m quadrat (50 cm on a side), constructed of 0.6-by 100-mm aluminum stock. Quadrats are placed approximately 1 m apart and arranged in a 2-by-5 matrix. Two divers collect simultaneously, working their way upriver. Each diver places a quadrat on the bottom, scoops out all sand, gravel, live mussels and shells into a 20-liter bucket. The bucket is pulled to the surface with a gasoline-powered winch. A pre-labeled 4-liter plastic zipper lock bag is placed in each bucket which is later transported to shore.

Each site consists of two to three sub-sites that are separated by 5 or 10 m and similar with respect to water depth and velocity. The dive boats are moved to a new sub-site by simply letting out the appropriate quantity of anchor line. Ten quantitative samples are obtained at each sub-site. If substratum consists of fine-grained material that can be collected easily, 60 quantitative samples can be taken in a day. If the substratum consists of firmly packed sand and gravel, 40 samples are usually collected in a day.

Qualitative Sampling

Qualitative sampling consists of having a diver collect live mussels by hand without bias as to species or size. In large rivers this has to be done by feel since visibility is limited or non-existent. Mussels are collected via timed searches or incremental collections. Typically divers must avoid collecting the Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*). If taken inadvertently, this species will later be eliminated from the qualitative samples.

Possibility for Innovative Solutions to Solve Problems

We have been involved in large river research for more than 15 years. The above information describes the type of work that will likely be needed to accomplish research goals. However, it should be recognized that occasionally personnel will be required to assist with repairing equipment, collecting additional samples, or completing other unplanned tasks. Any extra un-planned work will only be undertaken if it is determined necessary to complete the technical mission.

Changes in Section L

The following clauses which are incorporated by full text have been added or modified:

In addition to the "Instructions to Offerors – Commercial Items" clause 52.212-1, the following instructions are provided:

No bid entries are to be made on pages 2 through 4 of the solicitation. Complete Bid Schedule beginning on page 5 in its entirety.

Proposals must include entire Bid Schedule, Representations, Certifications and Other Statements of Offerors in Section K and all information requested in Scope of Work under Contract Information and Evaluation Data.

Proposals may be sent express to address to the following address (as provided in block 9).

Vicksburg Consolidated Contracting Office
Attention: Laurie Bagby
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS. 39180-3435

Faxed proposals may be submitted to (601)631-7263. FAR Clause has been added to allow faxed proposals.

52.215-5 FACSIMILE PROPOSALS (OCT 1997)

(a) Definition. Facsimile proposal, as used in this provision, means a proposal, revision or modification of a proposal, or withdrawal of a proposal that is transmitted to and received by the Government via facsimile machine.

(b) Offerors may submit facsimile proposals as responses to this solicitation. Facsimile proposals are subject to the same rules as paper proposals.

(c) The telephone number of receiving facsimile equipment is: (601)631-7263.

(d) If any portion of a facsimile proposal received by the Contracting Officer is unreadable to the degree that conformance to the essential requirements of the solicitation cannot be ascertained from the document--

(1) The Contracting Officer immediately shall notify the offeror and permit the offeror to resubmit the proposal;

(2) The method and time for resubmission shall be prescribed by the Contracting Officer after consultation with the offeror; and

(3) The resubmission shall be considered as if it were received at the date and time of the original unreadable submission for the purpose of determining timeliness, provided the offeror complies with the time and format requirements for resubmission prescribed by the Contracting Officer.

The Government reserves the right to make award solely on the facsimile proposal. However, if requested to do so by the Contracting Officer, the apparently successful offeror promptly shall submit the complete original signed proposal.

(End of provision)

Questions and Answers - Clarification of items on DACW42-01-R-0008

Subject 1 - Schedule B Pricing Entries

Question: Ref. Sect B, pg. 2 Section B requires a "MAX NET AMNT" to be entered for the base year and 4 option years. However, the Item No description refers to the "Bid Schedule" which is based on daily pricing. Is Section B to be left blank or does Section B require a roll-up/cumulative total of the 2, 3, 4, and 5 person teams for each period?

Question: Is the MAX NET AMT in Schedule B the straight addition of the six(6) "per day" surveys of the three types listed?

Answer to two questions above: Section B - Page 2 through 4 of 28 - No bid entries are to be made on these pages. Complete Bid Schedule on pages 5 and 6.

Notice of changes and clarifications to Bid Schedule:

Instructions at top of bid schedule are changed to following:

Submit pricing on a per day basis for three types of surveys (see below) and in accordance with information in Scope of Work.

Bidder must provide daily rates that will take into consideration these rates would also be effective for weekend and holiday work (daily standard dive day rates, standby/weather day rates and mobilization day rates will be paid at the same rate, regardless of weekend or holiday work).

Government's definition of Standard Dive Day is 12 hours for this acquisition (normal dive day number of hours for Government research team). Overtime rate for the entire team, including equipment, will be paid for hours greater than 12 on Standard Dive Days only. Overtime hours would not be paid on Standby/Weather or Mobilization days.

Additional rate requests are added in this amendment to request "Standard Day Rate", "Overtime rates" "Standby/Weather Day Rate" and "Mobilization Day Rates" in accordance with revised bidding schedule. Provide number of hours covered in Standard Dive Day Rate.

The boat size is being eliminated from the bidding schedule and replaced by estimated depth.

In section 3 of bidding schedule, section is added for 6-man crew for Large River Surveys.

Also, Scope of Work - Basis of Pricing - Statement " Ten to 12 hour days are usually standard." is revised to read " The Government's definition of Standard Dive Day is 12 hours for this acquisition, which is the normal dive day number of hours for Government research team."

Subject 2 - Travel Reimbursement

Question: Ref. "Basis of Pricing", pg. 9. While direct labor, the dive plan and equipment costs can be calculated, consumables and per diem is subject to location, duration and specifics of each trip. The "Introduction" on pg. 8 references "a variety of large and small rivers in the central United States." The "Contract Information and Evaluation Data" estimates a range of 2-8 separate trips with the price for each trip based on the type of survey and number of days.

With that, and remaining within a FFP contract type, can we assume that breaking out the per diem as subject to the Joint Travel Regulations and priced in accordance with government published per diem rates and ODC's fixed priced at actual cost accrued be acceptable with location definition to be provided within the Delivery Order?

Question: Because pricing is expected to be submitted on a firm-fixed price basis the following concerns are noted:

- Because the location of the dive sites could be 500 to 1000 miles from home (contractor's?) site travel time becomes a variable cost of considerable dimension. It cannot be captured under the current pricing scheme.
- Again, because the location of the dive sites could be 500 to 1000 miles (one to two days driving/hauling time) from home site the costs of fuels, per diem and weekends/holidays become critical cost variables impacted by labor laws, safety concerns and there is no clearly defined contract line item for capturing these discrete factors.

Answer to above two questions: Do not include ANY pricing associated with travel. Remove second paragraph of Basis of Pricing and add the following:

Do not include ANY pricing associated with travel. Travel will be reimbursed on an actual-cost basis in accordance with Joint Federal Travel Regulations.

Travel costs will not be a part of the evaluation process for contract award. A line item will be added to the base year with an estimated amount for travel.

After award, successful contractor will be provided Scope of Work for specific project requirement. Proposals will be prepared for each project with estimates for travel. Negotiated delivery orders will be issued for a given number of days (rates dependent upon requirement of each project) and "Not to Exceed" travel amount.

Subject 3 - Clarification of payment for travel time

Question: Ref. "Appropriateness of costs", pg. 9. Delivery order pricing will be based upon the size of the crew, and number of days in the field (to include travel time). Does this mean that travel time is an unallowable expense or will travel time be allowed and calculated on the team per day price plus government published per diem rates?

Answer: Additional rate requests are added in this amendment for proposed "Mobilization Day Rates". Actual travel expenses (exclusive of salary rates) including mileage and per diem will be reimbursed in accordance with Joint Federal Travel Regulations.

Subject 4 - Definition of "Home Base" in Basis of Pricing

Question: Ref. "Basis of Pricing", pg. 9 Is "Home Base" assumed to be the location from where our dive teams are dispatched or a USACE demark/location? If a USACE demark/location, then where is that location?

Answer: In Basis of Pricing - Page 9 - "home base" is defined as contractor's closest location to dive site in each delivery order requirement.

Subject 5 - Seasonal Gear requirements

Question: There is no clarification or consideration for seasonal conditions that impact the type and difference in diving gear requirements.

Answer: In the past, sampling has taken place in the summer months. The contractor is free to propose alternate pricing for daily diving rates with winter gear as an addendum to Schedule B. Should that contractor receive award, and winter diving is required, those rates would take effect. Those alternate rates would **not** be considered in evaluation.

Subject 6 - Clarification consequences of weather delays

Question: Pricing is again affected by the lack of clarity regarding weather conditions. What happens (cost/price) if after the contractor is on the work site and weather conditions then prevent work?

Answer: Additional rate requests are added in this amendment for proposed "Standby/Weather Day Rates". Contractor will be paid Standby/Weather Day Rate for these days on a case-by-case basis under each delivery order.

Subject 7 - Clarification of Government supplying mussel sampling equipment

Question: The scope of work states, "Typically, ERDC personnel supply all mussel sampling equipment, maps, a shore crew and support boat." The word "typically" lacks definitive clarity. Who provides the sampling equipment and others if ERDC does not?

Answer: Remove the word "Typically". All mussel sampling equipment and related research instruments, maps, a shore crew and support boat will be provided by the Government.

Also for clarification, Government personnel will always be present at site of dive.

Subject 8 - Divers working simultaneously

Question: BACKGROUND- To the best of our knowledge you cannot have two divers working simultaneously under a four or five man dive team (Corps Safety Regulations (ER-385-1-1). Further, there is nothing in these specifications to indicate that more than one team will be used at any one time.

Answer: Diving activities are dictated by Safety Regulation ER-385-1-1. Should two divers be required to work simultaneously, these regulations dictate.

Prior to issuance of each delivery order, a Scope of Work will be provided to the contractor with sufficient data to project required crew size and equipment needs.

We do not anticipate a sampling that will require more than one dive team at any one time. Should that need arise, contractor will provide proposal for that specific job including two or more diving teams, as requirement dictates.

Subject 9 - Equipment issue - boat size

Question: (RE. boat size reference in (2) for small river survey.) The BID SCHEDULE states "Twelve or 14-foot boat would be needed..." From a safety standpoint, a 20-foot boat or bigger is required. See load limits.

Answer: The statement of boat size was intended to be a minimum recommendation. Again, safety standards dictate dependent on number of men per boat and standard boat limits. The boat size is being eliminated from the bidding schedule entirely and replaced by estimated water depth.

Subject 10 - Clarification of Min/Max figures

Question: Clarify: Are the min/max quantities annually or full contract (5 Years)?

Answer: Minimum amount reflects minimum amount for base year and maximum amount reflects maximum for base and four option years. The maximum amount is being raised by this amendment to reflect \$450,000.00 as the maximum for the base and four option year periods.

Subject 11 - Applicability of Service Contract Act

Question: Does the Service Contract Act apply to this contract?

Answer: This solicitation is a research effort, therefore the Service Contract Act does not apply.

Subject 12 - Insurance Certificate Requirement

Question: What are the insurance requirements: IE, General Liability & Workman's Comp, USL&H or Jones Act?

Question: What is the insurance requirement, and where should that information be placed in the proposal?

Answer: In accordance with FAR 28.306, since the proposed contract is a fixed-price contract and the work will not be performed on a Government installation, there is no insurance certification requirement prior to award. However, contractors are required to comply with applicable Federal and State workers' compensation and occupational disease laws and statutes and Federal and State liability laws concerning insurance requirements.

Subject 13 - HubZone preference

Question: Do we get any preference as a HubZone certified business?

Answer: This solicitation has been set-aside for small businesses, but not for HubZone certified businesses. No additional preference will be considered.